

SITUATION REPORT NO. 7
INCIDENT NO. 2004-021
DATE: April 7, 2004 Time: 5:00 p.m.

TO: Governor John Hoeven
State Capitol
Bismarck ND 58505

1. NATURE OF DISASTER: **Spring Flooding** induced by heavy rains on frozen ground and ice-packed drains, streams and rivers.
2. DEATHS AND INJURIES: No deaths or injuries have been reported.
3. DAMAGES: The National Weather Service (NWS) Area Flood Warnings for Pembina, East Grand Forks, Oslo and Drayton still remains in effect. The Red River will rise at Pembina and continue to fall at East Grand Forks, Oslo and Drayton. Minor to moderate flooding is occurring and is forecast to continue. Minor flooding is also forecasted for the Sheyenne River.

The following is a NWS summary of river levels and projected crests:

Red River: The current river stage at Oslo, MN, is 29.9 feet with the forecast reflecting further declining levels over the next seven days. Flood stage is 28.0 feet. At Drayton, river levels crested at 39.4 feet on Monday with the forecast reflecting further declining levels over the next six days. Flood stage is 32.0 feet. At Pembina, the current river stage is 46.57 feet with crests forecasted at 46.72 by Wednesday afternoon. Flood stage is 42.0 feet. East Grand Forks is reporting the current river level at 27.87 feet with the forecast reflecting further declining levels over the next six days. Flood stage is 28.0 feet.

Park River: The current river stage at Grafton reads 10.15 feet, with continued declining levels forecasted over the next six days. Flood stage was at 12 feet.

Sheyenne River: The Sheyenne River continues to respond to the snow melt from the west. The river crested at Valley City at a level of 14.80 feet on Tuesday evening. The current level is 14.59 feet with the forecast reflecting further declining levels over the next six days. The flood stage is 13.0 feet. Forecasts call for the river to crest at Lisbon at a level of 13.90 feet later on Thursday evening, April 8. The current level is 13.14 feet with the flood stage measured at 11.0 feet.

Barnes County

The County Emergency Manager reported the Lake Ashtabula pool level is at 1,269.77 feet. The St Paul USACE has warned operators not to go over the 1,270 pool level. The Baldhill Dam is releasing 3,500 cfs and the Sheyenne River south of Valley City is measuring 14.52, 1.5 feet over flood stage. There is moderate flooding of pasture land and some farms south of Valley City. The Sheyenne River at Cooperstown is at 3,600 cfs; however, flows at Warwick are only 1,550 cfs and it will take five days to reflect this flow at Cooperstown.

Benson County

County and townships continue to report roads and culverts washing out due to flowing coulees and streams. The Benson County Road Department and township officials continue to repair roads and flag or close unsafe and inundated roads.

Cavalier County

The Cavalier County Highway Department sent an initial damage report with estimated costs of over \$290,000. The N.D. Department of Health reported that the boil order for the city of Langdon was lifted on April 6.

Grand Forks

Grand Forks officials sent N.D. Division of Emergency Management preliminary damage estimates.

Nelson County

The county is still having problems with numerous county and township roads. Many of these roads are still closed and/or have received substantial damage. The road superintendent is working to keep vital roads accessible to emergency vehicles and to either open or repair as many secondary roads as needed. Initial damage estimates by the cities and townships are underway.

Pembina County

The County Emergency Manager reported that due to high levels on the Red River, the County Highway 66 crossing to Minnesota by Drayton is closed. The Pembina River in Walhalla and in Neche has dropped below flood stage. Damage assessments are beginning to be collected from townships as of April 5 as most river levels in these areas continue to recede. Rains from the evening of April 6 were measured at approximately 1 to 1.5 inches. Officials from the town of Crystal are closely monitoring Kart Creek for potential rising and have notified officials from Walsh County (downstream) of the potential impact into the Park River.

Walsh County

The County Emergency Manager reported that initial damage estimates are being conducted throughout the county. Several areas are still impacted by water limiting the amount of information that can be collected in some areas. Officials are concerned with culverts and bridges throughout the county as they continue to find several of these structures have been weakened. A bridge in Forest River Township was closed today when it collapsed. These types of situations are showing up at random throughout the county. The

county is currently working with the NWS to determine amounts of rainfall last night and today. Areas in Pembina County that drain into the North and Middle Branch Rivers have already received over one inch of rain and it continues. The Park River drainage area has also received one-half to three-quarters of an inch of rain within Walsh County and continues. County officials continue to collect preliminary damage assessment information for public and individual damages. Repairs have begun on county and township roads. Volunteers are working to assist those that need help to clean their homes and remove sandbags.

4. RESOURCES:

LOCAL: No change from previous reports.

STATE: No change from previous reports.

FEDERAL: No changes from previous reports.

5. VOLUNTEER ACTION: The American Red Cross (ARC) provided feeding on April 3 in Minto and Grafton. The United Methodist Disaster Response and Nechama have been coordinating volunteer clean up efforts through the Federal Church in Grafton. They are working with several other volunteer organizations including Lutheran Disaster Response and the Mennonite Disaster Response. The ARC is operating a Service Center at the Armory in Grafton through Thursday.

6. MAJOR ACTIONS: At the request of Governor John Hoeven, the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) sent a team to inspect flood damage in northeastern North Dakota. The FEMA team arrived on April 5 and is working out of the State Operations Center. The FEMA team will join local and state officials in compiling a Preliminary Damage Assessment (PDA) report on areas affected by recent flooding in the northeastern part of the state. Three teams will begin site inspections today, concentrating primarily on the hardest-hit areas of Grand Forks, Pembina and Walsh counties. Inspections of homes and businesses are expected to take approximately 3 to 5 days to complete. Inspection teams will consist of representatives from local emergency management, the state Department of Human Services, the U.S. Small Business Administration and FEMA. They will visit a sampling of damaged properties in affected areas to assess the impact on individuals and businesses, and the damage to public infrastructure.

The PDA is a measure of damages. It does not guarantee that federal assistance will be available. In the event of a Presidential Disaster Declaration, all individuals in the designated counties will have an opportunity to register for disaster assistance, regardless of whether they were contacted during the assessment phase.

Since the last report, the Griggs and Benson County Board of Commissioners issued a disaster declaration, and the County Boards of Commissioners for Cavalier and Ramsey Counties issued emergency declarations. A total of 10 counties have declared either emergency or disaster declarations to date.

7. ASSISTANCE NEEDED: No changes from previous reports.

8. OUTSIDE HELP ON SCENE: No changes from previous reports.
9. OTHER INFORMATION: The N.D. Division of Emergency Management's Situation Reports are posted on the Division's Internet home page. The address is <http://www.state.nd.us/dem>.

Douglas C. Friez, State Director